

BRIEFS

FEDS USING BABY PARTS IN BLEND WITH ANIMALS

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP) — CNS News broke the story last week that the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently signed a taxpayer-funded contract with Advanced Bioscience Resources (ABR) in Alameda, Ca., to provide human fetal tissue to make "chimeric (two different species) animals that have a human immune system." The FDA reportedly uses humanized mice to test the safety of medications. FDA contracts with ABR reportedly date back to 2012. Using taxpayer funds to buy human fetal tissue for research is legal under a 1993 federal statute.

RAINER SUCCESSOR SEARCH UNDERWAY

NASHVILLE (BP) — Trustees for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville have taken the initial steps to search for a successor to president and CEO Thom S. Rainer, who is retiring. Trustee chairman Jimmy Scroggins, lead pastor of multi-campus Family Church in West Palm Beach, Fl., named a seven-person search committee to find LifeWay's next leader. The search committee will be chaired by Kent Dacus, vice president of student services at California Baptist University in Riverside, and a member of The Grove Community Church in Riverside. No Mississippi Baptist trustees were named to the search committee, which will receive questions and names for consideration at presidentialsearch@LifeWay.com.

SO. BAPTIST CHAPLAIN RECEIVES PROMOTION

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Senate on Aug. 20 confirmed the promotions of U.S. Air Force chaplain and Southern Baptist Ronald M. Harvell to deputy chief of chaplains and the rank of brigadier general. He has been serving as the air mobility command chaplain based at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. Harvell will now transition to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., for his new pastoral leadership responsibilities.



Photo by alisafarov/Shutterstock.com

Mississippi has a lottery

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant pushed through a state lottery bill Aug. 24 during a special session of the Mississippi Legislature he called to address highway and bridge needs across the state.

Proceeds from the lottery, projected to be up and running in about 12 months with first year receipts estimated at about \$40 million, will be dedicated

to what has been characterized as an infrastructure crisis of crumbling roads and dangerous bridges along key transportation routes in virtually every section of the state.

The bill creating the lottery enjoyed bipartisan support but did not sail through the Legislature. A sizable group of Democratic lawmakers complained they didn't have enough time to seriously study the legislation. Rep. Steve Holland, a Democrat from Plantersville, said from the House well that bills moving

through the special session were examples of "crash it down your throat" legislative maneuvering.

On the evening of Aug. 23, after a committee of senators and representatives had negotiated a compromise lottery bill to which the Senate agreed, the House voted it down. Held over for further discussion, however, the House went back into session of the afternoon of Aug. 24 and approved the same compromise bill they rejected the

see LOTTERY on p. 11

Gulf states remember Harvey on anniversary

SOUTHEAST TEXAS (BP and local reports) — As Hurricane Gordon takes aim at the central Gulf states a little over a year after Hurricane Harvey swept across southeastern Texas, citizens of that region marked the anniversary of the storm that sent hundreds of Mississippi Baptists to help with cleanup and recovery.

Kevin Mullenburg, pastor of Coastal Oaks Church, in Rockport, Texas, welcomed a crowd of around 100 people on Aug. 25. "It was a little different standing in this parking lot a year ago, but we are still in the process of making recovery from Harvey," he said.

Gesturing to the gym, Mullenburg said Coastal Oaks' role had been to "be available" following Harvey. Its gym served as a distribution center for relief supplies while the church housed volunteers and sent out work crews.

"Our desire is just to be the hands and feet of Jesus, to be whatever He wants us to be and to be available in the community," the pastor said.

The next day 200-225 people gathered at First Church in Humble where

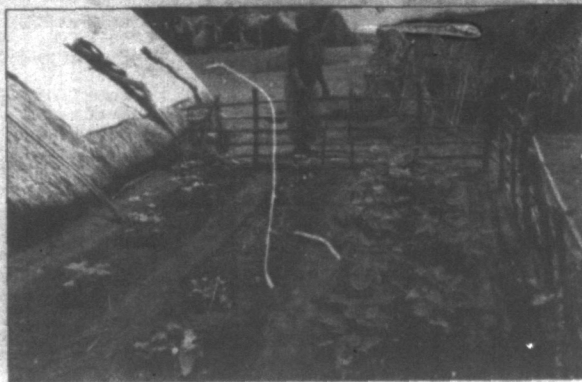
see HARVEY on p. 9

Helping war victims feed their families

SUDAN (BP) — The light was soft as Monica (not her real name) weeded her garden on a community farm in South Sudan. A picture from that day shows her sitting quietly among other garden plots, legs folded demurely under her thin body. A long scarf is tied around her head for protection from the blazing African sun.

Susan Hatfield remembers the moment well. It was the day Monica learned that her nephew had been killed in a fight that took place while he had been watching over his family's cows.

"[Monica] was crying and in shock after getting the news," Susan recounts as she talks via Skype. "The ladies [who were



FOOD RELIEF — In war torn Sub-Saharan Africa, a small garden that Baptist Global Response partners helped create trains displaced people to grow food in cramped areas like refugee camps. (BGR photo)

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see FEED on p. 9



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

America the exceptional

In our mixed-up modern culture where an upcoming movie about the 1969 American moon landing excludes almost everything patriotic about the feat (First Man, Oct. 12 release date), there are people in this country who so despise America that they have earned a nickname: the Hate America crowd.

No matter how much good America does, it's never good enough. No matter how many wrongs have been righted by her noble people, the Hate America crowd is never satisfied.

It is true that America has been, and is, far from perfect. The Trail of Tears and Emmett Till and internment camps and Selma and Philadelphia provide plenty of evidence to that effect, but it's also true that we have corrected many of those grave mistakes of the past and don't intend to repeat them in the future.

One wouldn't know it from listening to the Hate America crowd which seems to have overtaken the hallowed halls of academia, the self-important national news media, and scheming politicians of certain persuasions, but Americans are still the most generous people on the planet.

Earthquake-devastated Haiti is merely the latest indication of that truth. While economic behemoths like China and Saudi Arabia have contributed a pittance (if anything at all) to the earthquake relief effort for residents of the poorest country in the world, America has stepped up as it always has and Southern Baptists are leading the way once again with Mississippi Baptists well-represented.

It's an incredible privilege to be able to help the Haitians as we have," said Rick Picerno, an orthopedic surgeon and member of First Church in Jacksonville, FL. He helped organize and recruit a Florida medical team that worked out of a makeshift field hospital across from the destroyed presidential palace in Port-au-Prince.

Mississippi Baptist disaster relief teams, from the state

convention, individual churches, and stand-alone ministries, have continually been on the scene since the massive temblor struck over eight years ago.

"I thank God and the American people who have come to Haiti to help with that tragedy," said Potus Ketnil, a young Haitian woman who was brought to the U.S. along with her two-year old child after the earthquake and is now under the care of a Haitian Baptist church in Miami.

She was forced to leave her husband behind because he hasn't been seen since the earthquake struck.

Southern Baptists and Mississippi Baptists will continue to be at the forefront of relief efforts in Haiti and around the world, because that's who we are. Jesus changed us and remade us in His image when we accepted him as our Lord and Savior.

That's who we are as Christians, and that's who we are as Americans. To the Hate America crowd, understand this: America is indeed an exceptional nation, and its citizens prove it every day in places like Haiti. Understand this, too: American Christians are an important part of that exceptionalism. Nothing the haters say or do can ever change that.

As for those American Christians and Southern Baptists and Mississippi Baptists, the time is now to press on with our mission. Time may be short to save those who don't know Jesus.

"God passed through Haiti after the earthquake and many of the people heard God's voice because His true church — the people — was outside the walls of [their church] buildings," said Fritz Wilson, retired executive director of disaster relief for the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Alpharetta, Ga., and former disaster relief director for the Florida Baptist Convention in Jacksonville.

"Maybe God is trying to tell the church in the U.S. to do the same. Get outside the walls and let people see, hear, and feel His love."

Give It Up

Backwards. I do remember sighing in the days of raising my five kids as I realized I put the baby's shirt on backwards. Then I'd look at the toddler to find the same thing. What are the odds?

Most of the time when I had all those babies, I never knew if we were coming or going. My dad and his four siblings tell stories of their comings and goings that make me feel better. Or maybe worse.

I'm not sure which, because they tell stories of what happened when their mom was out with her five exceptionally active kids. If she lost track of two or three of them too many times in one trip, she would take a length of extra-long twine and harness them all together.

I know what you're thinking. It occurs to me, too, that it was an extreme response. Anyway, to hear the siblings tell it, they felt like a little family of mountain climbers.

Do you ever feel you're at the end of your rope? Life feels inexplicably backwards and you're fit to be tied?

Here's good news: You can find blessing even in the most overwhelming circumstances. In fact, there's a special blessing reserved exclusively for those who are at the end of their rope.

Pastor and author A.W. Tozer (1897-1963) said, "The reason why many are still troubled, still seeking, still making little forward progress is because they haven't yet come to the end of themselves. We're still trying to give orders and interfering with God's work within us."

Coming to the end of our rope? If it's tied to coming to the end of ourselves, it's not only good, but it's needed. It's a different kind of coming and going. Spirit-led living comes. Selfishness goes. God rules.

Coming to the end of ourselves — realizing that on our own, our spiritual shirts are never really anything but backwards — can strip away pride and get our ego out of the way of what God desires to



Guest opinion
with Rhonda Rhea

accomplish in and through us.

It really is a place of blessing. Jesus Himself said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs" (Matthew 5:3 CSB).

His grace meets us at the end of that rope. I had to chuckle when I read a paraphrase of that verse: "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule" (MSG).

Anytime we're bent on tightening our grasp on that rope, guess what we end up with. More rope, but as we get to the end of self-sufficiency and instead reach for Kingdom living through the power of the Holy Spirit, all glory to Him, we find sweet, sweet blessedness.

Incidentally, if you're curious about how my dad and his siblings turned out, no social workers were called and the children grew into happy people, though perhaps with an inexplicable attraction to mountain climbing.

As for my own story, you might be happy to hear that I did eventually get better at recognizing the backwards shirts. Inside-out, however? Yeah, not so much. I still do that.

Rhea is a pastor's wife, mom, speaker, and author. This column is adapted from *SBC LIFE* based on one of her chapters in *Messy to Meaningful — Lessons from the Junk Drawer* (Bold Vision Books, 2018) by Rhonda Rhea, Kaley Rhea, and Monica Schmelzer. Rhonda Rhea and her husband Richie serve at First Church in Troy, Mo.

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Drop the nicknames, says Mormon president

SALT LAKE CITY (BP and local reports) — Theologians are saying "Mormon" and "LDS" will likely remain in widespread use to describe The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, despite a directive two weeks ago from the church's new leader.

"The Lord has impressed upon my mind the importance of the name He has revealed for His Church, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We have work before us to bring ourselves in harmony with His will. In recent weeks, various Church leaders and departments have initiated the necessary steps to do so. Additional information about this important matter will be made available in the coming months," church president Russell M. Nelson said in an Aug. 16 public statement.

Nelson, age 94, was a surgeon before assuming the church presidency in January.

R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., is among those who predict the well-known monikers will remain in popular use. "Once a group is known by some kind of name such as the Mormons have been known now for so long, and since their central text they claim as authority is known as the Book of Mormon, it's very unlikely that Mormons will be known as anything other than Mormon, regardless of what the Mormon president says, even when he says don't use the word Mormon," Mohler said in his Aug. 20 podcast, *The Briefing*.

Mormon and LDS also are still currently seen in:

- the church website addresses, Mormon.org and LDS.org.

- the title, Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

- the 2014 advertising campaign, We Are Mormons.

- the news service, Mormon-newsroom.org.

- Twitter handle, @LDSChurch.org.

- a host of other endeavors.

A church web site containing an updated style book indicates entities will be required to use the church's full name — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — on first reference, and the express terms of "the Church," "Church of Jesus Christ," or the "restored Church of Jesus Christ" on second reference.

Church members, which the Mormon.org web site numbers at 16.1 million, should be called "Latter-day Saints," according to the new style book. However, the Book of Mormon and such references as the "Mormon trail" will remain preferred usage and unchanged.

Richard E. Bennett, church history professor at Brigham Young University — the church's official collegiate institution in Provo, Utah — also predicts the longstanding monikers will largely remain in use.

"I don't think it's going to stop our friends outside the church from calling us nicknames," The New York Times quoted Bennett as saying Aug. 18, "but certainly among members of the church, we'll be making a greater effort to follow the directions."

Mohler believes the greater questions are Nelson's claim of divine revelation in making his request and the Mormon church's claim to be the 1830 restoration of the true church, which they believe has been oth-

erwise absent since the time of the 12 original apostles of Jesus.

"That's not just a name; it's a claim," Mohler said. "In that name there is a clear claim to identity with Jesus Christ, but a clear claim of discontinuity and absolute distance from the church from the time of the apostles until Joseph Smith."

Nelson's directive is the third time the church has sought to distance itself from the term Mormon, which was first used derogatorily. The Washington Post reported. Nelson seems more determined to institute the change as indicated by his claim of divine direction, the Post reported.

According to Southern Baptist theological descriptions of Mormonism from such places as the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga., the religion believes that the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ, and the Heavenly Father "comprise three separate and distinct gods: the Father and the Son have bodies of flesh and bones 'as tangible as man's,' but the Holy Ghost 'is a personage of Spirit' (Doctrine and Covenants [D&C], 130:22)," the Southern Baptist journal SBC LIFE reported in its March 2012 issue.

Mormons, as noted by SBC LIFE, derive theology from four specific sources:

- King James Version of the Bible — as Smith translated it.

- Book of Mormon, which the church considers "another testament of Jesus Christ."

- Doctrine and Covenants, which contain the "revelations" of Joseph Smith and succeeding leaders of the church.

- Pearl of Great Price, that purportedly "clarifies doctrines and teachings that were lost from the Bible and gives added information concerning the creation of the earth."



UNAUTHENTICATED — Joseph Smith, founder of what is known today as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, claimed to have been visited at the age of 14 by both God the Father and Jesus Christ. This stained glass window depicting the supposed event was completed in 1913 by an unknown artist, and is presently displayed at the Museum of Church History and Art in Salt Lake City, Utah. The visitation, known as the "First Vision," has never been authenticated by independent sources. (Wikipedia/Public Domain)

Estate planning lacking among Southern Baptist pastors

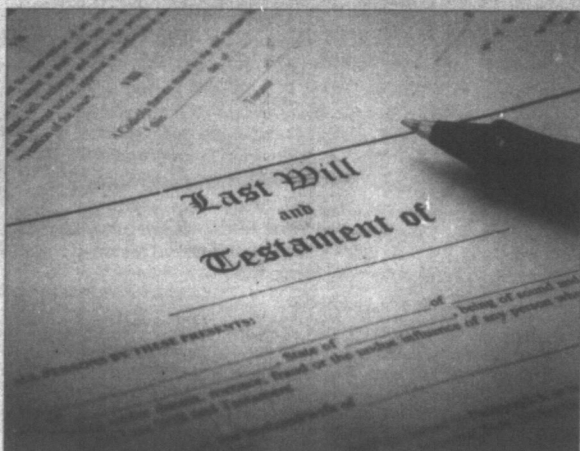


Photo by Rob Hyrons/Shutterstock.com

NASHVILLE (BP) — Passport? Check. Airline ticket? Check. Hotel reservation? Check. After careful planning, you're ready for vacation!

Have you taken more time preparing for a vacation than your estate planning?

A new survey conducted by LifeWay Research, an arm of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville that specializes in surveys about faith in culture and matters that affects churches, for the Southern Baptist Foundation in Nashville found more than half of Southern Baptist pastors, overall, do not have a will, trust, living will, electronic will, legacy story, or durable power of attorney with health care directives.

"Pastors know they can't take it with them when they

die, but estate planning is really about good stewardship for your family," said Warren Peek, president of the Southern Baptist Foundation.

In fact, 74% of the pastors surveyed believe that estate planning should be considered a part of a person's complete financial stewardship.

"Basic planning saves a lot of headaches for your loved ones," Peek said. "Through an estate plan, taxes can be minimized and assets protected. While most reasons for procrastinating are understandable, none will serve to lessen the reality that the absence of a will can have a devastating impact on an estate."

Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research, said the survey reveals a lack of awareness about estate planning and accompanying laws which may

contribute to pastors not having a plan in place.

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation and the Southern Baptist Foundation have tools to assist pastors in making their estate plans. "Your will is your opportunity to articulate your wishes, your values, and your legacy," Peek said.

Contact the Mississippi Baptist Foundation at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3210 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 210. E-mail: gphelps@mbcf.org. Web site: www.ms-baptistfoundation.org.

Contact the Southern Baptist Foundation at 901 Commerce Street, Suite 600, Nashville, TN 37203. Telephone: (615) 254-8823 or toll-free (800) 245-8183. E-mail: sbfdn@southernbaptistfoundation.org. Web site: www.sbfdn.org.

James Abram Garfield of Ohio was the twentieth president of the United States of America. A Republican whose term was supposed to run from 1881-1885, he had been in office only a few months when there was an assassination attempt. He was leaving Washington, D.C., by train to go on vacation with his family when Charles J. Guiteau, a mentally-unstable attorney whose numerous requests for a federal job had been turned down by Garfield, shot him at the train station on July 2, 1881. For seventy days, doctors treated him but he succumbed on Sept. 19. What actually killed him? Of course, it was an assassin's bullet but it was more than that. It was also the blood poisoning he developed as doctors unsuccessfully attempted to recover the bullet under the primitive medical conditions of the day.



GARFIELD

Having surgery just after he was shot, doctors tried to dig down to the bullet but failed and would later try again. Others were brought in to try. With each effort to try to get the bullet out, they unknowingly brought more and more infection into his body. One of the interesting back stories about Garfield's death is that famous inventor Alexander Graham Bell was brought into the process because he had just developed a metal detector device. They asked him to come and see if the device could find the bullet. Bell, too, unknowingly added to the infection invasion as he joined the probing. Garfield's temperature went extremely high. His body became weaker. They never recovered the bullet and after seventy days, Garfield died.

This story has many applications in our lives today, for there are times when people seem to be totally committed to digging and digging and digging into the hurts, wounds, problems, and pains of life. Could I just point out here that in Psalm 103:10-12, Scripture says, "He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."

There is the reality that in forgiving us, God doesn't keep digging. He forgives us and removes sin and its consequences, but I can assure you there are some of us who feel their spiritual calling is to dig into the depths of other's sins or even their own. We spend days, weeks, maybe a lifetime, digging and digging when we would well be served to trust God's forgiveness and stop the digging process. There are probably many marriages that could have been saved if a husband or wife or



Directions

Stop Digging

both had just stopped digging deeper into the pain and corruption they had felt or seen.

Forgiveness is a powerful thing in that when forgiveness takes place, it involves promises in the process. There is a promise that you will not bring it up to the person or to yourself again. You will leave it alone, and at least the digging stops and healing has a chance to take place. God can handle our brokenness, our wounds, and our infections but you can't get up every morning and start digging again.

There are sins in all our lives that have affected us and others, but if we do not live in a spiritual world of God at work in us activating forgiveness — genuine forgiveness — it's pretty sure you can't go on in life. If you can forgive, you can live. How do you do that? Let me just give you three thoughts.

One — When you get hurt, when you feel the pain of sin, lift it up. Give it to God. First Peter 5:7 says, "Casting all your care upon him; for he

careth for you." Lift it up to God who, unlike the people around us or someone we might meet, can and will forgive.

Two — Let it go. You may be the forgiver or you may be the forgiven. Do what the psalmist says God does and let it go. He removes our sins, never again to remember them against us. Are you willing to forgive somebody who has hurt you, shot you, scared you? Let it go.

Three — Love it through. Sometimes when we forgive, we keep the shell of the event still encrusted and sitting on our desk or table or kitchen hutch somewhere as a reminder. Move past the digging and remembering processes and focus your attention on love and care for the person — even the person who hurt you. There are always barriers we keep around us as reminders of the hurt we have experienced, but even those barriers need to be draped with love. Even the person who hurt you the most has some good quality. God will help you find it so you won't spend all your time brooding, remembering, digging. He will help you to forgive and if not forget, forgive and love through it. I have seen that happen in so many people's lives, and it can happen in all of our lives if we will let God come and do in us what He does and keeps on loving us through the hurts of life.

If you want to talk with God regarding the sins you have committed about which you have talked with Him a thousand times, it's a futile effort because He cast them away from Him as far as the east is from the west, which is infinitely. He remembers them no more. You're remembering stuff God has forgiven and forgotten, so move on in love.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Staff Changes



FIRST CHURCH, NETTLETON, has called Bradley Geno as pastor, effective Aug. 12. Shown are Geno with his wife dawn and daughters Kaytee, Lydia, and Ruthie.



FIRST CHURCH, MORTON, has called Tim Jolly as youth pastor. Shown, back row, are deacon chairman David Hollingsworth, pastor Marty Wilson; front row, Cynthia Jolly and Jolly.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg:** 135th anniversary and Coming Home celebration, Sept. 16; worship, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; pastor Adam Wade, speaker; Robert Hedgepeth, music; Buddy Murphy, accompanist.

► **New Prospect Church, Brookhaven:** Homecoming, Sept. 9; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; memorial and worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Joseph Bland, speaker; Terry Walker, music; Amy Walker, piano; Steve and Lissy Smith and Vonda Laird, special music; Willie Welch, pastor.

► **Glendale Church, Glen:** Homecoming, Sept. 9, 11 a.m.; Daniel Jones, speaker; Lisa Lambert Band, music.

► **Mt. Nelson Church, Philadelphia:** 176th homecoming, Sept. 9; service, 10:45 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Ben McDaniel, speaker; Tom McCurley, music.

► **Beacon Street Church, Philadelphia:** 70th anniversary homecoming, Sept. 9; service, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Dan Howard, speaker; Sue Lewis, music.

There is still time to join us...

Thank you for making our 2017 Jim Futral Golf Classic at Old Waverly in West Point, Mississippi such a huge success!

It is time to mark your calendars and make plans to JOIN US for this year's event on Monday, September 24, 2018.

Space is limited to 36 teams (\$1,000 per team). The price includes green fees, cart rental, breakfast, lunch, beverages, and prizes. Team and sponsorship registration materials are available. Registration deadline is Thursday, September 20.

For questions or additional information, contact Nancy Grisham at ngrisham@bmc.edu or 662-685-4771 ext. 255.



Webster's Dictionary defines a lackey as a "servant of low rank, a footman, a servile follower." A secondary meaning for lackey is one who blindly follows orders — one who goes along to get along.

A lackey says, "My personal position is such and such, but I will not impose my view on anyone else." Boy, does that sound familiar in recent days. There is a big difference between a lackey and a leader. A lackey "follows before." A leader leads. If you are not going to lead, get out of the way.

A lackey grows weary in the way and of the way. A leader does not cop out — tap out — because he's weary. If you're tired, go home. We don't need leaders

No Lack of Lackeys

who say, "No Mas." Galatians 6:9 says, "Be not weary in well doing."

Lackeys throw in the towel; leaders throw down the gauntlet.

I had a lackey tell me recently that he had to vote a certain way, because "everyone" in his district wanted it. I told him that if serving in public office forced him to violate his Bible convictions, he should have never run for public office.

Pilate was a lackey. He blamed the mob for allowing the crucifixion of Jesus. "It's their fault" was his defense. The lackey wishes he had a basin of water today, but not to wash his hands.

Aaron was a lackey. He blamed the molten calf on the people and even blamed the fire that spit out the idol (Exodus 32:22-24).

Adam was a lackey. He blamed God for his sin: "the woman YOU gave me,"

made me do it. Some are still blaming God for our failures.

You can find lackeys in every avenue of life. There is no lack of lackeys. What we need are leaders in our homes, churches, communities, and our state.

The answer is not for us to be lackadaisical. A lackey is lackadaisical. Easy come, easy go. Live and let live. For the sake of our children and grandchildren, we need some leaders — not more lackeys.

Digby is executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission. He can be reached at (601) 292-3329/office, (662) 284-9163/cell, or by e-mail at kdigby@christianaction.com.

So. Baptist recognized for good deeds in special way

NASHVILLE (BP) — Somewhere between exercising, working tirelessly in his yard, rebuilding classic cars, cutting hair, and serving multiple roles as a lay leader at his church, 82-year-old Neal Buchanan still finds time to volunteer as a reading tutor at the elementary school near his home.

Buchanan, a member of Lincocoy Hills Church in Nashville's Donelson community, has been passionate about childhood literacy for his entire adult life. He was recently honored for his devotion to the cause by being featured on two brands of Kellogg's cereal boxes: Frosted Flakes and Fruit Loops.

"I am not sure why they selected me. I guess it's because I have been doing it longer than anyone else," said Buchanan in his typical humble manner.

"I think they chose him because he is the oldest one on the list," joked his wife Gail.

Buchanan, a former school principal, has been volunteering at Pennington Elementary School on a weekly basis since 1999. He visits the school once a week, working with three or four students for 30 minutes each.

It's unlikely he ever envisioned he'd one day end up sharing the spotlight with Tony the Tiger and Toucan Sam, but that's exactly what happened.

This past spring Buchanan was contacted by Dollar General Stores, which has a partnership with Kellogg's, and was told that the cereal giant wanted to recognize him for his commitment to literacy.

He landed on the cover of the cereal boxes several weeks later, and his friends and family members began seeing his pic-



LONG TERM TUTORING — Neal Buchanan (right), a member of Lincocoy Hills Church in Nashville's Donelson community, works with Jonah, age eight, a second-grade student at Pennington Elementary School. Buchanan has been serving as a volunteer tutor at the school for almost 20 years. (BP photo)

ture on the boxes at supermarkets around the nation.

Kellogg's is a sponsor of Dollar General's Literacy Foundation, which awards grants to support literacy. As a DG Literacy Foundation grant recipient, the FiftyForward initiative — a volunteer tutoring program — pairs older adults with children who need help strengthening their reading skills.

Buchanan has been a part of FiftyForward for 17 years. "They notified me that I had been selected, and then they sent a photographer from Denver, and he came and took pictures at Pennington," he said.

Although Buchanan was surprised by the recognition, those who know him best probably

were not. In fact, anyone who is familiar with "Mr. B" probably assumed it was just a matter of time before he ended up on the cover of a cereal box, although "Wheaties" might have been the more likely choice.

Buchanan continuously uses his talents to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. Whether it's repairing the roof on a church member's house, visiting an ailing neighbor in the hospital, serving on church committees, or simply offering the use of his truck to haul supplies and other items, Buchanan embodies the concept of having a "servant's heart."

His love for Jesus is evident to all those who know him and yet, despite having so many



THEEEY'RE GREAT! — Retired school principal Neal Buchanan of the Donelson community in metro Nashville displays the cereal boxes that nationally recognized his tutoring efforts over the past two decades. (BP photo)

iron in the fire, Buchanan makes sure that his volunteer work at the school remains a top priority.

He was pictured on the cereal boxes with one of his tutoring students, Noah DeJesus, who attends Pennington and has made great strides in his reading in recent months.

Buchanan said he was allowed to suggest a student for the picture. "It was a big deal for Noah," he said. "He was a celebrity at school."

Buchanan worked as an editor, including editing children's

literature, at the Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) for 23 years. During this time he co-authored a book and developed the ABCs of Salvation, a teaching tool that is still in circulation today. It is used to tell children, and adults, too, about Jesus.

He also was the principal of a program for emotionally disturbed children in North Carolina and for a psychiatric school in Memphis. "I have been involved in teaching, in some form or another, all my life," he said.

Just for the Record



INGOMAR CHURCH, UNION COUNTY, burned the note on their sanctuary after being in the building two years. Shown is Bobby Sappington, Challenge to Build spokesman, and building committee chairman John Fitzgerald. Terry Cutrer, pastor.



FARMHAVEN CHURCH, CANTON, ordained Drew Moore, Jimmy Fitts, Jason Sanders, Joe Jenkins, Larry Marshman, and Delaine Stacy as deacons.



CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO, held its annual GA badge service Aug. 26. Amaryllis Leggett and Holly Kimbrell, leaders.



HIGHLAND CHURCH, MERIDIAN, ordained Matt Singley as deacon Aug. 26. Shown are interim pastor Ivan Parke, left, Singley, right, and Singley's family Alisha, Weston, and Hayes.



JERUSALEM CHURCH, ATTALA COUNTY, held a baby dedication Aug. 26. The church presented a Bible and certificate. Shown are Leslie Odom Griffin, Layla Claire Griffin, James Cody Griffin, and pastor James Butch Bell.

In other Church News:

► The State of Mississippi Open Horseshow Association Finals will host Cowboy Church on Sept. 9th at 7 a.m. in the Kirk Fordice Equine Center of the Mississippi State Fairgrounds in Jackson. Greg Renfrow, Pastor of First Church, Steen, will be the Speaker. For more information contact Renfrow at (601) 504-4945.

► **Carrollton Church, Carrollton**, is hosting a women's conference Sept. 8. Mississippi Christian Living magazine editor Marilyn Tinnin, speaker; Kate-Taylor Wilson and Danae Wade, music. Brunch served. Doors open at 8 a.m. and event concludes at 12:30 p.m. To assure a meal, pre-register at delhgrams@gmail.com and bring the \$15 fee as you come.

► **Pine Grove Church, Nettleton**, is hosting a gospel singing with The Trailsmen Quartet and The Glory Road Singers, a silent auction, and bake sale Sept. 8, 6 p.m.



The WMU of **BETHANY CHURCH, CALHOUN ASSOCIATION**, recently collected water bottles filled with change for Dorroh Lake. They collected \$1025.00 for the Webster County camp. Shown, seated, are Marlene McPhail and Ida Cheeseman; standing, Carol Easley, Marilyn Williams, and Elsa Doler.



ACKERMAN CHURCH, ACKERMAN, recently held a deacon ordination service. Shown are pastor Danny Irvin, Ben Ashley, Clint Huffman, and Dale Reid.



MOSELLE MEMORIAL CHURCH, MOSELLE, burned the note on the debt on their family life center. Shown are building committee chairman Brian Phillips, Fenton Koehler, deacon chairman Kerry Spalding, pastor Keith M. Thompson, Bobby Thompson, Samee Spalding, and John Dell Hucabee.



HURRICANE CREEK CHURCH, SANDY HOOK, ordained Ronald Morgan as deacon Aug. 26. Shown are pastor Zachary Smith, Morgan, Morgan's wife, Brittany, daughters Hannah and Riley, and deacon chairman Joel Germany.

Utah dinosaur find prompts evolution discussion

PROVO, Utah (BP and local reports) — A rare pterosaur dinosaur fossil discovered in Utah has been claimed by evolutionists as evidence that flying vertebrates lived in the desert 200 million years ago.

However, two scientists who are biblical creationists say the creature lived about 4,500 years ago — not in a Utah desert, and was found in a fossil layer created by the worldwide flood described in Genesis 6-9.

One of the creationists also says the intricate design of the pterosaur, the scientific name of the flying creature with a five-foot wing span, suggests direct creation by God rather than Darwinian evolution.

Although the researchers' article in the journal *Nature, Ecology & Evolution* "claims that the new fossil is found in deposits formed in a desert, young-age creationists would interpret the rocks in almost the opposite manner, arguing instead that the sediments were laid down during Noah's Flood," Kurt Wise, a Harvard-trained paleontologist who teaches at Baptist-affiliated Truett McConnell University in Cleveland, Ga., told Baptist Press (BP) via e-mail.

"I suspect that a close examination of the enclosing sediments would reveal rapid,

underwater deposition, consistent with (a) Noah's Flood, (b) the remarkable preservation and near-articulation of very fragile bones, and (c) the marine sediments in which most pterosaurs are preserved — all inconsistent with desert deposition," Wise noted.

The pterosaur discovery was published Aug. 13 by a team of researchers led by paleontologist Brooks Britt of Brigham Young University (BYU) in Provo, Utah. BYU is affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, also known as Mormons, which is headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The find is unique, the scientists stated in *Nature, Ecology & Evolution*, because it is well preserved and the first pterosaur that appears to have been fossilized in a desert environment. The other 30 confirmed pterosaur fossils in the world all were discovered in Greenland and the Alps.

Pterosaur fossils are "extremely rare," Britt said according to a BYU news release, adding, "Most pterosaur bones look like roadkill," but "for this animal, we have the sides of the face and the complete roof of the skull including the brain case, complete lower jaws, and part of the wing."



BRITT



Pterosaur

Nathaniel Jeanson, a biologist at Answers in Genesis in Petersburg, Ky., agreed with Wise that the pterosaur probably wasn't fossilized in a desert.



JEANSON

"What the authors do not do in this paper is extensively justify the claim their pterosaur skeleton fragments were buried in a

desert environment, Jeanson, a Harvard-trained cell and developmental biologist, told BP.

"Their focus is more the paleontology... What I'd like to see is research justification and for the creation geologists to weigh in."

Jeanson said researchers at Baptist-affiliated Cedarville University in Cedarville, Oh., "have accumulated about seven different lines of evidence or more that overturn

Pterosaur head structure

systematically what has basically been an assumption and not actually a good scientific conclusion — that a geological layer known as Coconino Sandstone just below the Utah pterosaur was formed in a desert environment.

Technically, pterosaurs and pterodactyls are in separate biological families though media reports and Britt have used the terms synonymously, Jeanson added.

Wise said young-earth creationists, who argue the universe was made by God's direct action thousands and not millions of years ago, believe "there may have been no deserts before the flood" and "would probably deduce a very different life environment for this pterosaur."

Most pterosaurs died in the flood, Wise and Jeanson said, and the survivors likely went extinct shortly after Noah left the ark, perhaps because of their small population and difficulty adapting to the post-flood environment.

The flood is "the fulcrum on which so much of this debate rests," Jeanson said. "Was there a flood or not?"

The evolutionary model answers no "before doing any scientific analysis," he said.

Irrespective of the pterosaur's origin, however, the Utah discovery provides another strong piece of evidence for the biblical worldview, Wise said.

The specimen "is well enough preserved to conclusively argue for a complex system of air sacs in the pterosaur body, arguing that pterosaurs were almost certainly more well-designed for flight than might be apparent with the overall bird-like design of the animal," he pointed out.

"Furthermore, the unique set of teeth are very well designed for slicing their food. Overall, then, this new species has multiple evidences of having been specially created by God (and not generated by naturalistic evolution)."

Editor's note: Pterosaur illustration and head structure photograph are courtesy of Brigham Young University.

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Cooper: Business acumen, faith reached around globe

YAZOO CITY, Miss. (BP and local reports) — On Labor Day, Americans celebrated U.S. workers who have built and shaped the nation and influenced the world.

One of the most successful Mississippi-based entrepreneurs of the 20th century was also one of Southern Baptists' most influential laymen, Owen Cooper, who died Nov. 8, 1986, at the age of 78, worked tirelessly in both arenas.

The year before Cooper's death, the Mississippi Baptist Convention named him Layman of the Century. He was one of only six laypeople ever elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, serving two terms, 1972-1974.

J.B. Gambrell, who was the first editor of The Baptist Record in 1874, is the only other Mississippian to serve as president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He occupied the top office for four terms, from 1917-20.

Bold vision

Many who knew Cooper, a member of First Church in Yazoo City, say his commitment to Christ and Christ-like ministry inspired his vision for bold endeavors.

His passionate interests drove him into many arenas to leverage his farm-boy upbringing, as well as a master's-level education in economics and political science from the University of Mississippi in Oxford in 1936 and a 1938 law degree from Jackson School of Law — now Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College's School of Law.

His business acumen and political knowledge, as well as his speaking and persuasion skills, would all come into play frequently over the years.

"Mr. Cooper had an amazing ability to envision and then inspire masses of fellow citizens to implement a simple, elegant solution to a huge need and problem," writes Jo [sic] G. Prichard III, Cooper's longtime executive assistant at Mississippi Chemical Corporation (now Mississippi Chemical Co.).

Prichard, author of *Making Things Grow: The Story of Mississippi Chemical Corporation*, (1998), provided his reflections to Baptist Press.

The beginning

The seeds for Mississippi Chemical were planted 75 years ago in 1943 as World War II was winding down. Mississippi agricultural researchers were studying ammonia as a source of nitrogen to improve crop yields.

Cooper was then executive director of the Mississippi



MISSISSIPPI LEGACY — Industrialist Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, the last layman to be elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), led the 1973 sessions of the SBC annual meeting in Portland, Or. Chosen as the Layman of the Century by Mississippi Baptists, his passion for missions and generosity to people in need endeared him to thousands. (BP file photo)

pi Farm Bureau Federation, which represented 250,000 farmers and rural families.

By March 1947, the research had proven ammonia's effectiveness as a fertilizer but as demand for the product exploded, short supply made it expensive. That's when Cooper laid out his vision to create Mississippi Chemical, his best-known business enterprise.

As Farm Bureau executive director and a Christian concerned about the food supply in post-war America, Cooper challenged farmers across the South to buy stock in a new co-op enterprise that would build the world's first farmer-owned ammonia-nitrogen fertilizer plant.

Farmers, Mississippi banks, and a loan from the federal government provided \$4.25 million for the plant, which was built in Yazoo City, Cooper's hometown with a present population of 11,000.

The first bags of fertilizer were produced on March 16, 1951.

Going international

Over the next decade, the company built three similar plants in the United States and on the South American island of Trinidad.

In the 1960s, with support from other American fertilizer producers and the U.S. Agency for International Development, Cooper helped farmers in India build their own plants.

Cooper's interests in India also included missions, where the Indian government limited permanent visas available

to missionaries. Cooper suggested the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board) hire Indian nationals to help. When he learned it was against board policy to hire nationals, Cooper created Universal Concern to hire Indian Baptist preachers to go into unreached areas to start churches.

The effort was so successful the mission board revised its policy and merged Universal Concern into its ministries.

Educational efforts

Another of Cooper's interests in India was Serampore College, founded by British Baptist missionary William Carey in 1818, which will celebrate its 200th anniversary this fall. Cooper's interest was linked to Baptist-affiliated William Carey University in Hattiesburg.

"Mr. Cooper was supportive of William Carey University because... we are named after Carey, the 'father of the modern missionary movement,'" the school's president, Tommy King, said in e-mail comments to Baptist Press.

Cooper's wife Elizabeth, who died in 1999, served on Carey's board. The university's Owen and Elizabeth Cooper Institute of Missions is named in honor of the couple.

Carey is buried in a cemetery near Serampore, King said. "When Mr. Cooper was 25 years ago, he discovered that William Carey's grave was in a deplorable condition and disrepair, and it was being flooded every time the river overflowed."

King said Cooper came back to America and "raised money to renovate and repair the cemetery and build a levee to protect it from the river. So that's the kind of thing he did. He just saw needs and took steps to meet those needs."

Unsettling times

Cooper also took steps to meet the pressing social needs he saw in his hometown of Yazoo City during the racially turbulent 1960s and '70s.

His daughter Nancy Gilbert, 78, of Madison recounted that after a year of study in Europe as a Baylor University junior, "My view of the world greatly increased" beyond the racial inequality she had known as a child growing up in Yazoo City.

When she returned home from college in the early 1960s, Gilbert said, she and her parents had "a very rough" experience aligning their views on racial equality. Eventually, she said, "There was mutual stimulation... let's put it that way, and Daddy... began to get involved in the social justice arena." That involvement included:

- Promoting tolerance and cooperation between blacks and whites.

- Helping organize the Mississippi Religious Liberty Council that spoke out

against attacks on churches and synagogues.

- Partnering with the NAACP to form an organization to run the largest Head Start program in the South.

- Recruiting and hiring Louise Dean, Mississippi Chemical's first black professional, to work on his personal staff.

- Advocating the peaceful desegregation of the workplace, public facilities, colleges, and public schools.

Cooper's efforts in race relations were recognized by national news media on Jan. 7, 1970, when public schools in Yazoo City were peacefully integrated.

Dream thwarted

Involvement in civil rights came at a cost to Cooper, who wanted to run for Mississippi governor, Prichard writes.

"He would have been a formidable candidate and would have been a great governor," Prichard writes, but Cooper sensed that his civil rights efforts "doomed any possibility of his running for governor in the Deep South of the 1960s and 1970s."

Still, Prichard notes, in his business and faith initiatives, "He always seemed to insist: 'We can do this ourselves. Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work.'"

BIBL i O C I P H E R

EGH FSMLMJPUJ FNZZ GMW HM WSJ

ZEF MT WSV CNGR, ZJW BKHRQJGW

AJ JYJDKWJH LOJHJNZV KOMG SNQ,

FSJWSJU NW AJ KGWM HJWS,

MU WM AEGNLSQJGW, MU WM

DMGTNLDEWNMG MT RMMHL, MU WM

NQOUNLMGQJGW.

JXUE LJPJG: WFGJGW-LNY

Clue: U=R

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hosea 10:12

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Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

FEED

cont. from p. 1

also in the field] were just surrounding her, and we prayed for her."

Sadly, life in Monica's part of the world is marked by violence and instability. Susan hopes that good, strong crops can offer hope to families like hers.

Susan and her husband Mark work for Baptist Global Response (BGR) as area directors for Sub-Saharan Africa. BGR is a disaster relief and community development organization affiliated with Southern Baptists, and the Hatfields oversee humanitarian efforts scattered throughout the multi-nation region.

Susan was viewing BGR projects on the farm where Monica gardens when she learned about her nephew.

The agricultural projects that BGR supports aim to bring stability to areas like Monica's where food is scarce and poverty rampant. An organization that partners with BGR established and manages the farm to help the community with food security with an

emphasis on feeding students at a local school.

Village women are also encouraged to plant their own small gardens on its land. BGR outfitted the farm with oxen, chickens, buildings, fruit trees, fencing, and drip irrigation. It also provided farming equipment which Monica could use on her plot. She sowed melons and onions, and that small amount of produce would help care for her family.

"[Monica] didn't have a large plot of land to cultivate," Susan says, "but I was encouraged to know that the money she would receive from selling her onions would go a long way in paying her children's school fees as well as helping with food and other necessities."

The farm in South Sudan is just one example of more than 30 ongoing agriculture projects BGR funds worldwide. The organization works with partners on several continents to provide equipment, livestock, start-up seeds, agriculture training, irrigation systems, and more to individuals, farms, and farming cooperatives. It helps widows grow vegetables and raise livestock to feed their families. It teaches farmers

better ways to grow crops and helps refugees grow food in small spaces.

It helps communities revitalize their fields after disasters such as floods or drought.

BGR CEO Jeff Palmer says the organization's personnel and partners design each effort in cooperation with local communities. They take a people group's unique needs into account before starting a project.

"We have some great community development tools that help us go in and assess where people are and assess what their problems are based on their input and their needs," he says.

"It's a great way to reach people in terms of just a practical level, and a great way to show the love of Christ to people in need," Palmer says, "and when you're farming and working with people on the land, it just leads to great conversations about things on earth and things that are more eternal."

Palmer asks Southern Baptists to pray for BGR agriculture projects and for the people who benefit from them.

For more information about BGR agriculture projects, visit www.gobgr.org.

HARVEY

cont. from p. 1

executive pastor Rick Whitaker recalled spending the night in the church and wading through the water-filled parking lot hoping to avoid electrocution.

"We saw people come together like we had never seen before," he said, emphasizing the role of churches in responding to the crisis. "This area did not receive the full force of the government's support. The story will be told that it was the churches that stepped up — not just one church but many churches stepped up."

At the Humble commemoration, Cameron Whitley, pastor of West Lake Church in Houston, called Hurricane Harvey "a great opportunity for us as the church to come together and remember how God united not just people, but how God united His church around the mission of His Kingdom."

Not only did the floodwaters rise, but the "church rose up in a mighty collaborative effort that displayed the heart of God," Whitley said.

Pastor Nathan Cothen opened an Aug. 27 event at Calvary Church in Beaumont to mark the final Harvey observance, speaking from atop

a trailer the church used to haul heavy equipment after the storm.

"I am grateful tonight to be using the same trailer here in a little bit of a celebration of what the Lord has done," Cothen told the crowd of 250. "If I were to ask anyone here if they wished that Harvey never happened, we would all say yes, but let me tell you a little secret: There were people who came to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and their Savior in Harvey that never would have otherwise."

Mississippi Baptists continue to travel to the stricken area to assist in long-term recovery efforts.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

AUGUST HONORS

Mr. & Mrs. Jim (Duncy) Casett
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dees
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby (Joe Ann) Daryville
Mr. & Mrs. Ron D. Qaddock
Rev. & Mrs. Franklin Dunn
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford E. Trussell
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Mrs. Laura Scott
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Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean
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Mr. Keith Coleman
Ms. Pauline R. Baine
Mrs. Mary June Cooksey
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Mendrop
Ms. Linda B. Vance
Ms. Francis Cooper
Harry & Patricia Lott Family
Mr. William Delma Covington
Mr. & Mrs. George L. Hendricks
Ms. Carolyn A. Roberts
P. Trussell's Life Group,
Broadmoor BC
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Burns
Dr. & Mrs. Rory Lee
Mike, Shea, Briley, Hayden &
Cooper Pitlik
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Shaw, III

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Chappelle
Mr. & Mrs. Kent Thompson
Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Mr. Louis D. Roberts
Ms. Lasonia McIlwain
Ms. Lois Farris and Family
Will & Neely Umphlett
Kate & Alli Umphlett
Mr. Cleve Crane
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Bishop
Mr. Curtis Cranford
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Williams &
Family
Mr. Billy Crowe
Mr. & Mrs. David McLain &
Children
Ms. Carol W. Smith
Mrs. Thelma Crowe
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean
Mr. Robert P. Crutcher
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O.
Crosthwait, Jr.
Ms. Susan McNabb Cuchens
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Harmon, Jr.
Mr. Dexter Dabbs
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mr. Rick Ogwin Davis
Ms. Kim J. Davis
Mr. Roy Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Barney J. Albritton
Mrs. Ruby Davis
Ms. Lea Kirby
Rev. & Mrs. C. M. Day
Dr. Larry H. Day
Mr. Edgar Newton Donahoe
Mrs. Nancy G. Parker
Mr. Ricky Dry
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry A. Stewart
Ms. Mildred Weekley Elsworth
Mr. & Mrs. Connely Monk and
Family
Mr. Fant Fancher
Ms. Linda B. Vance
Mr. Nic Fitzgerald
Mr. & Mrs. Krandall Howell
Ms. Sherry Floyd
Bradford Chapel BC
Ms. Melissa Ann Ford
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn R. Gregg
Mr. George W. Garner
Mr. & Mrs. Danny M. Trusty
Mr. & Mrs. Dex W. Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Odom
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne R. Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Strittman
Mr. Jerry Grant
Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Grant
Ms. Elaine Griffin
Paul & Denise Roberts,
Russell, Julie, Owen and Abby
Rev. & Mrs. James E. (Clara)
Griffith
Springfield BC
Ms. Maggie Hanberry
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel A. Smith
Ms. Colleen Hardin
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Rushing
Ms. Elaine Herring
Mr. W. B. Herring
Mr. Felix Herring
Mr. & Mrs. Larry P. Franklin
Ms. Inez Herring
Mr. W. B. Herring
Mrs. Jo Hollman
Ms. Linda B. Vance
Ms. Judy Holton
Mr. Grady Suttle
Ms. Patricia Triplett
Ms. Wendy Champion Hood
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion
Mr. Carl Edward Howard II
Ms. Bettye Howard
Mr. Ernest L. Howell
Dennis Blissard
Joyce Vance
Mr. Robert L. Hudgins
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mrs. Frances H. Gunter
Mrs. Billie J. Jackson
Rev. Joe Jackson
Mr. Scott Jacobs
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie E. Poole
Mrs. Barbara Jelfcoat
Arlington BC

Christmas Parties & Projects

If your church group, civic club, family, etc., is interested in hosting a Christmas party or sponsoring Christmas gifts for children and youth at The Baptist Children's Village, please start planning now and contact the campus closest to you for more information and to make arrangements. If you would be interested in purchasing gift cards or other gifts for our non-residential families, please contact our headquarters. Contact details are listed below and may also be found at www.baptistchildrensvillage.com/locations.

BCV HEADQUARTERS

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cthames@bcvms.com

DEANASH CAMPUS

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FARROW MANOR CAMPUS

Bill Tate
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FIKES-GATEWOOD CAMPUS

Mark Mathis
Nanih Waiya, MS
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INDIA NUNNERY CAMPUS

Kimberly Reed
Star, MS
601-845-8038
kreed@baptistchildrensvillage.com

POWELL-WALLEY CAMPUS

Mark Mathis
Waynesboro, MS
601-671-3553
mmathis@baptistchildrensvillage.com

REEDY ACRES CAMPUS

Bill Tate
Water Valley, MS
662-473-3717
btate@baptistchildrensvillage.com

BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Tom Prather at tprather@bcvms.com or 601-952-2422.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.

Christianity 104: Be Good Neighbors • Luke 10:25-37

Confronted by Truth

Paul, the great defender of the Jewish faith, became an even mightier defender of the gospel of grace following his conversion experience. Because of his face-to-face encounter with Jesus, Paul was able to challenge Peter to remember that both Jews and Gentiles are equally sinners in need of God's saving grace because true grace is no respecter of persons.

I see evidence of God's grace every day at Angola. The offenders have committed terrible crimes. However, many offenders have cried out to the Lord, repented of their sins, and accepted God's gift of grace. They are truly "new creatures" in Christ Jesus.

Justified by Grace

The grace that we receive comes by faith, not works. Faith is the key. When a woman anointed Jesus, He said to her, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace" (Luke 7:50). Paul spoke of faith as he shared highlights from his first missionary journey, including Lycaonia, Lystra, Derbe, Antioch, and Iconium in Galatia. "When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles" (Acts 14:27).

Paul's defense of the gospel before Agrippa explained his encounter with Jesus. Jesus told Paul that He was sending Paul to the Jews and Gentiles "to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me" (Acts 26:18).

The author of Hebrews explained the superiority of faith. He wrote, "let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful" (Heb. 10:22-23).

While these scriptures show the importance of faith, Paul also wrote of works – not for salvation, but as an outgrowth of our faith. He wrote, "and let us consider how to stimulate one an-

other to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near" (Heb. 10:24-25). Paul declared that, while works were important, justification of any person comes through faith in Jesus alone. Any effort to gain justification through human efforts will fall short.

Crucified with Christ

Paul explained that he found true life by no longer trusting in the law but rather by trusting in Jesus. "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me" (Gal. 2:20).

Let's think about this for a moment. If salvation comes by the Law, then we are all toast! The Jews proved that keeping the Law was impossible. But what about works? Can we earn salvation? If salva-

tion comes by works, then how many works are enough? One good deed? Hundreds of good deeds? What if we mess up and sin, must we start all over with our works? And how many good deeds would ever be enough to warrant Christ dying for us? In a works-based theology, one never knows if he has done enough to earn his salvation. He has no assurance. I think Paul summed it up very well, "I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law (or something I have done to earn it), then Christ died for nothing" (Gal. 2:21).

Folks, there is absolutely nothing we can do to earn our salvation. God did everything for us through the death, burial and resurrection of His precious Son, Jesus Christ. Paul wrote, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). We have the assurance of our salvation when we accept God's gift. When we give our life to Jesus, we find true life and purpose. Will you, by faith, accept God's gift of grace today?

McGraw is a NAMB-endorsed chaplain at Louisiana State Penitentiary and member of Woodville Church, Woodville.

Explore the Bible
with Liz McGraw

Open Arms • James 2:1-10

God cares how you greet people at church. In fact, He wrote about in His word in James 2:1-4, "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool; Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?" (KJV). God expects us to treat all people as equal, as we are in His sight.

Many churches on Sunday morning are told, "turn and greet your neighbors, though the Scriptures go much further than just a handshake or a hug. The New Testament is filled with commands on how we are to treat one another. All through the book of 1 John we are commanded to love one another. Three times, 1 Peter 5:14, 1 Corinthians 16:20, and 2 Corinthians 13:20, we are commanded to, "Greet one another with an holy kiss," (KJV). Our actions tell people about our relationship with the Father. The holy kiss means we are personal with folks,

not obediently hugging and shaking hands because it is that time in the order of service in the bulletin.

Ephesians 4:32 reads, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you," (KJV). Our model is our Savior, who is tenderhearted and forgiving towards us. As we gather together as the church, the body of Christ, we celebrate His characteristics, and, according to Scriptures, we are to be in the world but not of the world. That means we represent Jesus to the lost. How we treat one another speaks so loudly about our relationship with Jesus, it drowns out our words. The Father and the world long for genuine believers.

Jesus challenged us when He said to His disciples in John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another," (KJV). Not the

size of our steeples, the big genuine leather bibles we carry, the carefully worded t-shirts we wear, nor the clever sayings on our church signs tell the world we are the real deal. Jesus said it was how we treat one another. I once observed a man driving dangerously, weaving in and out of traffic, far above the legal speed limit. As he flew by me, I noticed his car had a "Honk if you love Jesus" bumper sticker. The only honks he got had nothing to do with Jesus.

If you have a bumper sticker about Jesus on your car, please drive like you know Him. Lost people are watching you.

Our focal passage for this lesson includes a passage quoted by Jesus, known as the royal law, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself," Leviticus 19:18, (KJV). Genuine love for others in or out of the church is demanded by Jesus. The New Testament teaches that our actions have consequence. 1 Peter 3:7 warns,

"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered," (KJV). How each man treats his wife will hinder his prayers, if it is not godly. A man should love his wife as he loves himself.

More consequences are revealed in James 5:16, which reads, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much," (KJV). This passage follows the well-known passage about anointing with oil and praying for healing. We are to confess to one another. Is there anyone in your life close enough for you to say them, "Pray for me, I am struggling with _____." This text ties confession and prayers to healing. How can people pray for you if they know not about your struggles? The world is watching how we treat one another. Let Jesus be your guide in your relationships with family, friends, even with enemies. May your greeting be more than a hug or handshake. May they be the true love of true believers.

Henson is a member of Meadow Grove Church, Brandon.

Bible Studies for Life

with Rick Henson



LOTTERY

cont. from p. 1

evening before – thanks to a number of vote-switchers.

The House vote on Aug. 23 was 54 in favor, 60 against. On August 24, the House vote was 58 in favor, 54 against.

The count on the lottery

changed again when the final tally was released. The "yeas" were 64, the "nays" were 49. Legislators are allowed to change their votes after a bill has passed or failed.

Most of the pro-lottery legislators who spoke publicly about the lottery victory said their "yea" vote was simply to give

the people what they wanted.

Despite that vote defense and the glowing recommendations for instituting a lottery that were made during the special session, not all the state's residents were jumping for joy.

"Inasmuch as it provides dollars for the public treasury, a lottery is a tax," wrote long-

time Mississippi journalist and editor Charlie Mitchell in an Aug. 31 commentary published in the Sun Herald newspaper on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. "Payment is optional – no one has to buy a lottery ticket – but it's government preying on our hopes and aspirations."

A scan of the Internet re-

vealed web sites already reserved for the state lottery, including mislottery.com and mississippilotteryresults.com.

Due to the closeness of the legislative action to the observance of the Labor Day holiday, more coverage of the lottery vote will be published in next week's issue of The Baptist Record.

Study indicates many churches below cost of living

NASHVILLE (BP) — Compensation for full-time Southern Baptist pastors and church staff has gone up over the past two years but still lagged behind growth in cost of living numbers from the federal government.

Health insurance coverage remains low, too, according to the 2018 Southern Baptist Convention Church Compensation Study, a joint project of state Baptist conventions, GuideStone Financial Resources of the SBC in Dallas, and LifeWay Christian Resources of the SBC in Nashville.

Compensation and congregational data is collected anonymously from ministers and office/custodial personnel of Southern Baptist churches and church-type missions.

According to the 2018 report, Southern Baptist churches spend an average of 51% of their budget on personnel expenses, up from 47% in 2006.

Compensation

Compensation (salary plus housing) increased 3.8% for full-time, Southern Baptist senior pastors over the last two years; 1.5% for full-time staff ministers; and 2.3% for full-time office personnel.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for the same two-year period increased 4.6%.

"After a period of very low inflation, the cost of living has moved closer to typical growth in consumer prices. Churches that are unable to reflect this in their wages will hurt their staff," said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research, the survey and research arm of LifeWay also based in Nashville.

Factors correlating with compensation for senior pastors include weekly church attendance, education level, and total years of experience. Larger churches tend to pay their pastors more, the study shows. For every additional 100 attendees, an otherwise similar pastor's compensation is on average \$3,641 higher.

Higher compensation is also linked to education level. Those with a bachelor's degree earn an average of \$5,681 more than similarly qualified pastors with no college education or an associate degree. Master's and doctorate degrees correspond with compensation increases of \$5,754 and \$10,868, respectively, when compared to college graduates.

Years of experience also netted increased compensation. Pastors earned \$358 more for each additional year of experience in ministry. In contrast, each additional year of a pastor's age com-

pared to an otherwise similar individual is predictive of slightly less compensation by about \$500.

"It's true that you can't gain another year of experience without also getting one year older, but age and experience have opposite relationships with pastor compensation," McConnell explained. "When age and other factors are similar, more experience is related to higher pay. When experience and other factors are similar, higher age is related to lower pay. Those who become pastors later in life receive lower pay."

Benefits

Overall, the growth in value of the entire pay package (salary, retirement, housing, and other benefits including insurance) for senior pastors at 4.4% was slightly under the pace of inflation. However, the growth in pay packages for full-time staff ministers (1.3%) and office personnel (1.5%) fell well below the pace of inflation.

"We have always endeavored to ensure churches take proper care of their staff," said Greg Love, who provides leadership for the church retirement relationship team at GuideStone.

"A church can maximize its limited resources by implementing a sound, structured compensation plan and not a lump-sum payment. This enables the church to provide salaries and suitable benefits for workers and their families, including life and health coverage.

"Additionally, it empowers the church to provide highly important retirement contributions to ministry workers. These significant tasks can be accomplished as the church navigates smart financial stewardship, equips believers for ministry, and strives for Kingdom impact."

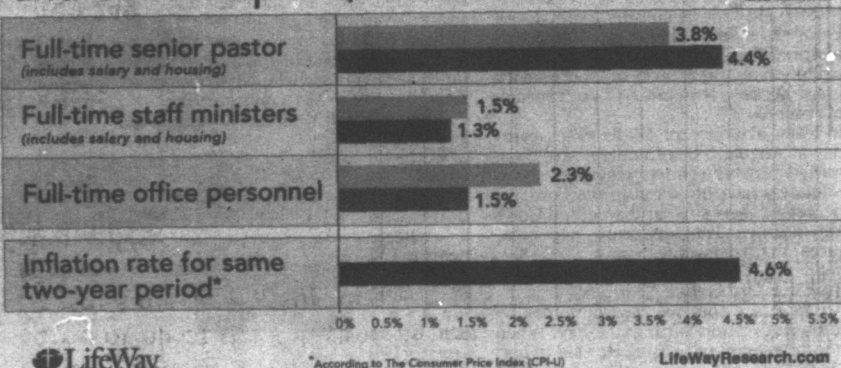
GuideStone provides many resources for churches seeking to establish, restructure, or evaluate pay and benefit packages for ministers and other staff. The free resources can be found at GuideStone.org/CompensationPlanning.

The 2018 study found half of churches participating in the survey provide some amount of medical coverage for full-time senior pastors, the same as two years ago and down from 60% in 2014.

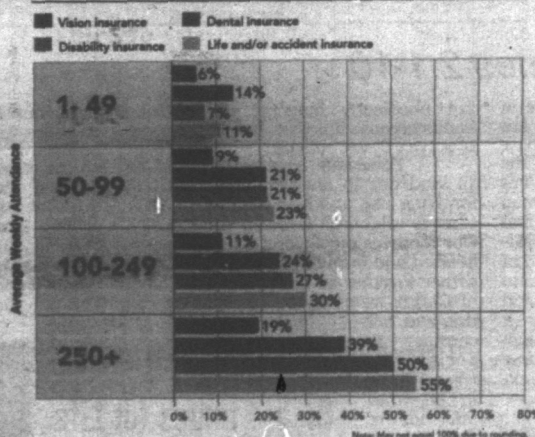
Twenty-three percent of churches pay for medical insurance for the senior pastor and his family; 17% provide for the pastor and his wife; and nine percent provide only for the pastor. Half of churches provide no medical coverage.

Churches with higher weekly average attendance are more likely to provide

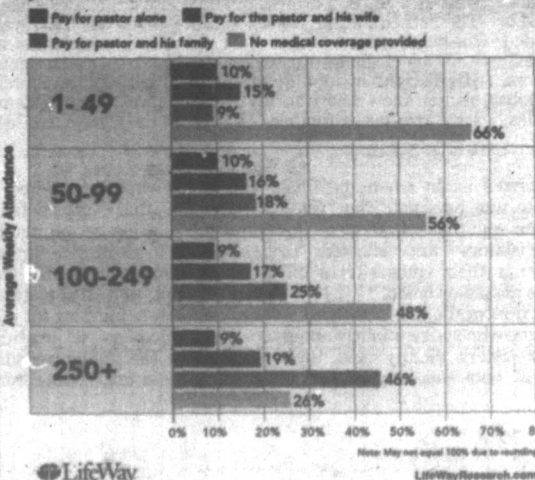
Changes to SBC church staff compensation and benefits plan (2016-2018)



SBC churches who fully or partially pay for the following benefits for full-time senior pastors



Percentages of SBC churches paying some or all of the full-time senior pastor's medical insurance



some amount of medical coverage for the senior pastor.

Almost three-quarters of churches with 250 people or more in weekly attendance provide at least some medical insurance. Fifty-two percent of churches with 100-249 people in weekly attendance provide some medical insurance, a larger percentage than in churches with 50-99 people in attendance (44%) and churches with fewer than 50 in attendance (34%).

Some churches also provide additional insurance benefits to senior pastors including life and/or accidental insurance (29%), disability (25%), dental (24%) and vision (11%).

Vacation
A number of factors also impact the amount of vacation senior pastors receive. Larger churches tend to give pastors more vacation, with otherwise similarly qualified pastors averaging one additional day for every 271 attendees.

Vacation also varies slightly by region. Pastors in the South tend to receive less vacation with 1.8 fewer days on average than otherwise comparable pastors in the Northeast; 0.8 fewer days than those in the Midwest; and 1.1 fewer days than those in the West.

Compared to those with no college education, pastors with a bachelor's degree get three more vacation days; a master's degree adds 3.8 vacation days; and a doctorate degree adds 4.8 vacation days.

For more info

The 2018 online survey was open from February 1 to July 6. Data from 6,894 full-time SBC respondents is available at lifeway.com/compensation-survey.